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Attorney Docket No. P50965

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gowen, et al. September 10, 2003

Serial No.: 10/049,348 Group Art Unit No.: 1617

Filed: January 30, 2002 Examiner: T. J. Criares

For: Calcilytic Compounds

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendments
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Sir:

The following response is provided to the Office communication dated September 4, 2003, setting a thirty (30) day shortened statutory period for reply.

According to the Examiner, Applicants' earlier response, dated July 7, 2003 was not fully responsive because Applicants elected a calcilytic compound but failed to elect an anti-resorptive agent.

Applicants elect the anti resorptive agent estrogen as indicated in claim 3, page 23, lines 9 to 12 of the specification. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement with respect to the anti-resorptive agent as well.

Applicants traverse the present restriction requirement because (i) the present application was filed under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 371, and the present restriction requirement is not

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in accordance with the unity of invention standard set forth by the PCT, and (ii) it reflects a misapplication of the guidelines of the MPEP and the PCT.

PCT Rule 13.2 states that unity of invention shall be fulfilled "when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features". It further defines "special technical features" as "those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art". In the present invention, contrary to the assertions of the Examiner, the technical relationship is provided because the invention in question involves calcilytic compound-mediated diseases and their treatment using the present compounds.

Furthermore, PCT Rule 13.1 includes within the definition of unity of invention "a group of inventions so linked as to form a general inventive concept". Accordingly, patentably distinct inventions do not lack unity of invention as long as they derive from the same inventive concept. What is required for a holding of lack of unity is that the inventions be truly "independent". This is the standard for lack of unity applied by the court in *In re Harnish*, 206 USPQ 300, 306 (CCPA 1980) ("unity of invention" ... appl[ies] where *unrelated* inventions are involved") (emphasis supplied). Independent, as defined in MPEP § 802.01, "means that there is no disclosed relationships between the two or more subjects disclosed, that is, they are unconnected in design, operation or effect".

In the instant case, all of the compounds of the remaining claims share: (i) a common operation as found by their mechanism of action (calcilytic compounds in combination with anti-resorptives), and (ii) a common effect (treatment of diseases outlined in the specification).

Furthermore, while applicants do not contend that the compounds of the remaining claims are not patentably distinct, the present compounds are so connected as to have arisen from a singular research effort. Accordingly, claim 1 and the other remaining claims read upon a plurality of distinct, but related inventions and fully comply with the unity of invention requirement according to the PCT. They cannot, therefore, be further subdivided or restricted and must be included in a single application.

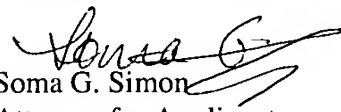
It is also noted that a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 is fully discretionary on the part of the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner

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exercise his discretion, and withdraw the restriction requirement both with respect to Groups I and II.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the opportunity to fully respond to the previous office action dated March 21, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


Soma G. Simon
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 37,444

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM CORPORATION
Corporate Intellectual Property - UW2220
P.O. Box 1539
King of Prussia, PA 19406-0939
Phone (610) 270-5019
Facsimile (610) 270-5090
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